

REMARKS

Applicants hereby respond to the Restriction Requirement made in the Office Action.

The following groups of claims have been identified by the Examiner:

Group I- Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-18 drawn to furan based compounds and processes for preparing compounds;

Group II- Claim 10, drawn to alcohol-based compounds;

Group III- Claim 16, drawn to polycyclic heterocycle compounds;

Group IV- Claims 19-28, and 38, drawn to transition metal complexes and catalysts comprising transition metal complexes;

Group V- Claims 29-31, drawn to processes for preparing stereoisomerically enriched compounds comprising providing transition metal complexes;

Group VI- Claim 32, drawn to a process for catalyzing reactions comprising providing metal complexes according to Claim 19;

Group VII- Claims 33-37, drawn to a process for preparing stereoisomerically enriched compounds, characterized in that the catalysts used are those which comprise transition metal complexes.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and request reconsideration. In order to be fully responsive, Applicants have provisionally elected, with traverse, the Claims of Group I (1-9, 11-15 and 17-18) drawn to furan-based compounds and the processes for preparing furan-based compounds. It is respectfully submitted that the search classification for each invention group substantially overlap. For example, the Examiner indicates that a search for Inventions VI, V, VI and VII would be in class 549, subclass 206. Applicants respectfully submit that such a search can be performed concurrently and the Examiner will not be seriously burdened by searching and considering the Inventions as described in the presently filed claims. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement from Inventions I – VII.

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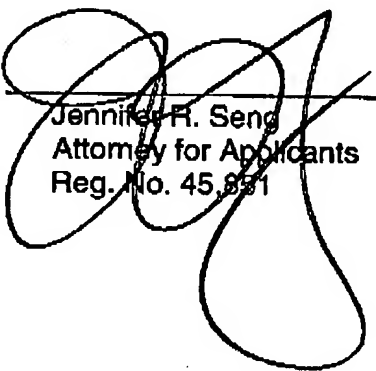
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By this election, Applicants do not admit, nor do Applicants waive the right to argue against the Examiner's statement that the groups of Inventions are patentably distinct at a later date. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the claims of Groups II – VII, or other claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications at a later date.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or need any additional information from Applicants' attorney, she is invited to contact the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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